

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2006. In the Outstanding Office Action, prosecution was reopened and claims 1-7 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by JP05271484. Claims 8-17 were rejected under § 103(a) as being obvious over the JP05271484 reference in view of United States Patent No. 5,532,030 to *Hirose*. Claim 25 was rejected as obvious over JP05271484 in view of *Hirose* and United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156195 to *Hausmann*. Claims 18-24 and 26-30 were rejected as obvious over JP05271484 in view of *Hirose* in further view of *Hausmann*. Additionally, the Examiner repeated the rejections of record in the October 5, 2005 final action at page 2, paragraph 2.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the interview of December 8, 2006. As discussed in that interview, claims 27-29 were deemed allowable. Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and 24-25, and has amended the remaining claims to depend from one of claims 27-29. New claim 31 has been added which ultimately depends from claim 28. New claim 31 reflects the features of original claim 25; no new matter has been added. The reasons advanced for patentability of the pending claims are summarized herein.

As amended, all claims depend from at least one of claims 27-29. As discussed in the December 8 interview, the art of record is not suggestive of heat-sealable films consisting essentially of norbornene/ethylene copolymer, which have the recited combination of seal strength properties when tested at the recited sealing temperatures. The inventive films exhibit surprisingly strong hot tack strength and ultimate seal strength when sealed at low temperatures, and also have excellent processability over a broad range of temperatures. These features are illustrated in **Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 6** of the pending application. The unique properties achieved by the norbornene/ethylene films of the invention are not suggested by the art of record.

This response is believed timely filed. If any additional extensions are required, please consider this paper a *Petition* thereof and charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0935.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Ferrell". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "W".

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